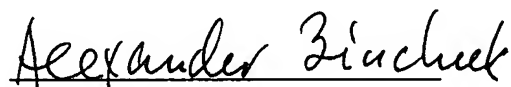


REMARKS

The present Preliminary Amendment eliminates multidependency of claims 3, 7 and 8.

An early action on merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted


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Reg. No. 30,541

Dated: **July 7, 2004**

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on **July 7, 2004**.

